

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

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R 201300Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1169

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STOCKHOLM 4526

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SW

SUBJECT: SPECULATION ON PROSPECTIVE NEW SWEDISH AMBASSADOR TO
WASHINGTON

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY NEWSPAPER
ARBETET, WHICH HAS ACCESS TO TOP GOVERNMENT CIRCLES, PRO-
FESSED TODAY TO HAVE LEARNED THAT OLOF RYDBECK, HEAD OF
SWEDISH UN DELEGATION, WILL BE NEXT AMBASSADOR TO U.S.
ARBETET SAID RYDBECK WILL BE SUCCEDED BY WILHELM WACHTMEISTER,
WHO WILL IN TURN BE SUCCEDED AS CHIEF OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS
AT MFA BY LEIF LEIFLAND, CURRENTLY CHARGE IN WASHINGTON.

2. ARBETET SAID: "RYDBECK WILL BE NAMED IN THE BEGINNING
OF 1974 AND WILL MOVE TO HIS NEW POST IN MARCH, WHEN THE NEW
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR COMES TO STOCKHOLM."

3. LAST WEEK SYDSVENSKA DAGBLADET, NOT A SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC
PAPER, CLAIMED THAT ANDERS THUNBORG, DEPUTY MINISTER OF
DEFENSE AND A YOUNG COMER IN SOCDEM PARTY POLITICS, WAS
FOREIGN MINISTER SVEN ANDERSSON'S CHOICE FOR THE WASHINGTON
ASSIGNMENT. THE THUNBORG STORY WAS NO-COMMENTED ALL AROUND.
END UNCLASSIFIED

4. COMMENT: SWEDISH PRESS AND POLITICIANS, WHO ARE CON-
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VINCE THAT AN EARLY EXCHANGE OF AMBASSADORS IS A SURE THING,

ARE SPECULATING ENTHUSIASTICALLY ON IDENTITY OF PROSPECTIVE
NEW ENVOYS. ARBETET STORY, WHICH COMES AS NO SURPRISE, VERY
LIKELY REPRESENTS PALME'S TENTATIVE DECISION.
WACHTMEISTER TOLD ME DECEMBER 17 NOT TO TAKE THUNBORG STORY
SERIOUSLY. HE DENIED CHOICE HAD BEEN MADE BUT WAS EXPLICIT
IN SAYING MFA IS CONFIDENT NEX AMBASSADOR TO WASHINGTON WILL
BE DRAWN FROM PROFESSIONAL RANKS.
SWEDISH CORRESPONDENTS IN U.S. ARE HAVING LITTLE LUCK IN
PULLING OUT NAMES FOR SPECULATION ALTHOUGH ALLOTT, PETERSON
AND FORSBERG HAVE BEEN BRUITED AS NON-CAREER ASPIRANTS.
OLSEN

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